



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Applauds Arizona Supreme Court Decision in State Budget Dispute

PHOENIX – Arizona Governor Jan Brewer today applauded the opinion of the Arizona Supreme Court, which unanimously agreed that the Legislature's action in *Brewer v. Burns* was unconstitutional.

The Court declared unconstitutional the Legislature's decision to pass the budget bills in early June and -- then refuse to immediately present them to the Governor.

The Arizona Constitution directs that "[e]very measure when finally passed shall be presented to the Governor for [her] approval or disapproval."

In its 32-page opinion released today, the Court explained why the legislative leaders' decision to hold the finally-passed bills unlawfully deprived the Governor of her constitutional role in the law making process.

Specifically, the Court said, "Because the constitution directs that bills shall be presented to the Governor 'when finally passed,' we hold that the Legislature must present such bills to the Governor with no more delay than is reasonably necessary to complete any ministerial tasks and otherwise effect their orderly transmittal. This standard was not met here."

In a separate Order issued today, the Supreme Court also denied the Legislature's Motion to Reconsider its June 23, 2009 Opinion in the same case, when the Court concluded, "After the Legislature finally passes a bill, the Legislature cannot delay presenting it to the Governor beyond that time needed to complete required ministerial duties."

Governor Brewer said, "I am pleased with the Supreme Court's unanimous 5-0 opinion today that agreed with my legal counsel's position. I applaud the Arizona Supreme Court for its thoughtful and well-reasoned decision with respect to my constitutional obligations as well as those of the Arizona Legislature."

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